

## REMARKS

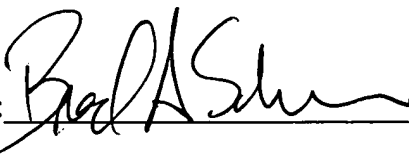
A Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 was mailed to the Applicant on May 11, 2006 asserting that claims 1-62 are directed to multiple invention groups and multiple invention species.

The Applicant notes that a Preliminary Amendment filed with the subject application on August 21, 2003 cancelled claims 1-49, 56 and 57. Accordingly, claims 50-55 and 58-62 are the only claims pending in the subject application.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, the Applicant hereby elects the Invention Group IV, including apparatus claims 50-55. Additionally, the Applicant notes that the species groups listed on page 6 of the Office Action do not require an election of species with regard to the nerve retractor recited in claims 50-55. Accordingly, the species restriction is believed to be moot in view of the election of Invention Group IV.

The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of claims 50-55 in view of the foregoing election.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Brad A. Schepers  
Reg. No. 45,431  
Krieg DeVault LLP  
One Indiana Square, Suite 2800  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2079  
(317) 238-6334 (voice)  
(317) 238-6371 (facsimile)